GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:230
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016
Performance in Athletics/Sports
Singh Shri Satya Pal

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of the country in athletics/sports is not upto the mark in comparison to that of other countries;

(b) if so, the details of steps being taken to deal with the said situation;

(c) whether schemes have been prepared to encourage and improve sports in the country but the results have not been so encouraging and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the table of the House.
STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 230 FOR ANSWER ON 10.05.2016 REGARDING PERFORMANCE IN ATHLETICS / SPORTS ASKED BY SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH, HON'BLE MP

(a) India has a large population but its achievements in international sports are not commensurate with its potential. There is immense potential for developing India into a sports powerhouse. Not so impressive performance of India in international sports events can be attributed to lack of bench strength, lack of sports culture, non-availability of basic sports infrastructure at grassroots level, lack of job opportunities etc. However, there has been perceptible improvement in the performance of Indian sportspersons in international sports events including mega sports events such as Olympic Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and South Asian Games recently.

(b) to (d): For broad-basing of sports and achieving excellence in sports with the aim of maximizing the country's medals prospects in international sports events, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports is implementing following major schemes:

(i) Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) for conduct of National Championships at Senior, Junior, Sub-Junior level for men and women, conduct of international tournaments in India, participation of sportspersons in international sports competitions, organizing coaching camps, engagement of foreign coaches, and procurement of sports equipments.

(ii) National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) for various activities including giving assistance to elite athletes, who are medal prospects for their customized and tailor-made training and competition exposure.

(iii) Scheme of Human Resource Development in Sports focusses on developing human resources in sports sciences and sports medicine for the overall development of sports and games in the country.

(iv) Scheme of Special Cash Awards for Winners of medals in international sports events and their coaches as incentive to achieve excellence in sports.

(v) Scheme of Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons after they retire from active sports career with the objective of providing them financial security and incentivizing sporting achievements.

(vi) Scheme of National Sports Awards, viz, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Arjuna Awards, Dronacharya Awards, Dhyanchand Awards for honouring them for their achievements and contribution as sportspersons and coaches.

(vii) National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons for providing lump sum financial assistance to sportspersons now living in indigent conditions for their medical treatment etc.

(viii) Scheme of Sports & Games for Persons with Disabilities for broad-basing of sports among differently-abled sportspersons by way of conduct of training for community coaches and conduct of sports competitions.

(ix) A new scheme, known as Khelo India - National Program for Development of Sports, which comprises of 3 major components, namely Annual Competitions, Talent Search and Sports Infrastructure, has been launched for implementation during 2016-17. Objectives of the scheme are mass participation of youth in annual sports competitions through series of competitions at various

levels, identification of talent, guidance and nurturing of the talent and creation of Sports Infrastructure at mofussil, Tehsil, District, State levels, etc.

Sports Authority of India is implementing the following schemes for talent identification and nurturing of identified talented sportspersons for their participation in national and international tournaments:

(a) National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC): NSTC Scheme is being implemented to scout sports talent in the age group of 8-14 years from schools and nurture them into future medal hopes by providing scientific training. Under the Scheme, schools having good sports infrastructure and record of creditable sports performances are adopted by SAI. The Scheme enables the budding sportsperson to study and play in the same school. In addition to the main scheme of NSTC (launched 1985) wherein regular schools are adopted, a few distinct sub-schemes were launched to further reach out to sports talent in India, including those participating in indigenous sports and games.

(b) Army Boys Sports Companies (ABSC): This is a collaborative venture of SAI with the Indian Army. The main objective of the Scheme is to make use of the good infrastructure and disciplined environment of the Army for training boys in the age group of 8-16 years of age, to achieve excellence in sports. After attaining the required age of seventeen and a half years, the trainees are also offered placement in the Army.

(c) Special Area Games (SAG): Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme aims at scouting natural talent for modern competitive sports and games from inaccessible tribal, rural and coastal areas of the country and nurturing them scientifically for achieving excellence in sports. The Scheme also envisages tapping of talent from indigenous games and martial arts and also from regions/ communities, which are either genetically or geographically advantageous for excellence in a particular

sports discipline. The main objective of the Scheme is to train meritorious sports persons in the age group of 12-18 years, with age being relaxed in exceptional cases.

(d) SAI Training Centres (STC): Under this scheme, talented youth in the age group of 12-18 years are given the option to join the scheme on residential or non-residential basis.

(e) Centres of Excellence (COX): The main objective of this scheme is to identify and train outstanding sportspersons who are medal prospects for the country in international competitions.

(f) SAI National Sports Academies: Various Sports Academies are being set up by SAI, in collaboration with the National Sports Federations to attract sports talent in respective discipline in the age group of 12-25 years. The Academy Scheme envisages modern training centres having good sports facilities, equipment, requisite sports science infrastructure as well as qualified personnel to meet the daily requirement of the trainees. The Sports Academies will have both residential and non-residential trainees. Each Academy will function under tripartite agreement under PPP mode, wherein the roles of SAI, the concerned federation and the sponsor shall be defined. One of the major roles of the federations would be to provide valuable inputs through foreign expertise and MOUs with international bodies of the disciplines. The national federations will also make efforts to generate revenue through sponsorships or partnerships.
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